

the airwaves of public station WYNE 91.5 FM in the New York Metropolitan area.

AKTINA Productions is unique not only because it is the only bilingual Greek-American Radio Show presently airing in the United States, but also because it caters to all ethnic groups and ages. Its programming includes Greek songs and music, as well as hard news, special news reports and feature stories of wide public interest, including folk arts, sports, radio, theater and the latest Greek hits. Its informative newscasts and reports from Cyprus and Greece, inform listeners of the Greek and Cypriot national issues.

Every year, AKTINA Productions organizes a cultural event to acknowledge the Greek and Cypriot heritage. This year's event will celebrate the unique customs and traditions of Asia Minor. The well-known dance Group Terpsichore will present a Dance-Music Journey from the Waterfront of Smyrna to the Black Sea of Pontos and into the caves of Cappadocia.

This event will also mark the tragic anniversary of the Greek expulsion from Asia Minor following the catastrophe at Smyrna in 1922. It was at Smyrna in 1914, that the Turkish Nationalists regime initiated a systematic campaign to eradicate the ethnic Greek population in Asia Minor, consigning and killing thousands of male conscripts into forced labor battalions and destroying Greek towns and villages and slaughtering hundreds of thousands of civilians in areas where Greeks composed a majority, including the Black Sea port of Pontos and the areas surrounding Smyrna.

Through this production AKTINA will be paying tribute to many Greeks who lost their lives during the tragic events at Smyrna, including Metropolitan Chrysostomos, the spiritual leader of the Orthodox Christians in Smyrna who refused to abandon the city and was brutally murdered by Turkish mobs with the consent of the Turkish police forces.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate AKTINA Productions both for the service they provide to listeners in the tri-state area, for ensuring that we never forget the tragic events at Smyrna by staging this production, and to wish them well as they come together on September 20, 1998 to celebrate their Greek and Cypriot heritage.

A TRIBUTE TO THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LEAGUE OF CALIFORNIA CITIES

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 1998

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, my colleague Ms. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD and I rise today in order to pay tribute to the League of California Cities, the organization that represents the 471 incorporated cities of our home state, California.

The League of California Cities was founded a century ago by a small group comprised of 13 cities. In the century that has passed since its inception, the League has served as a vibrant, active forum where California city officials can exchange information and ideas in

their work that keeps the great state of California moving up and moving on.

What the League of California Cities does is strive to protect the local authority and autonomy of the city government and assist California cities in offering their citizens the best services possible. To help its members meet the everyday challenge of running a city government, the League offers services, training, and other programs—all of which equip California's cities to meet their tremendous responsibilities far into the future.

On any given day here in the House or across the way in the Senate, you will find several legislators who have previously served as mayors and council members of California's cities and who have worked closely with the League for the good of those cities.

It seems appropriate that the theme for the League's Centennial is: "100 Years of Working Together: Better Cities—A Better Life." For the 32 million citizens of the state of California, the cities where they live and work and play and grow offer them just that opportunity—a better life, a better chance, thanks to people working together.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that we recognize the League of California Cities for 100 years of service to the people of the great state of California. And it is with sincere wishes that our successors here in the House of Representatives have the privilege of working with this same institution 100 years hence.

THANKS TO A DEVOTED EDUCATOR AND LEADER

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 1998

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, the future of our Nation is in the hands of our young people, and our young people are both guided and molded by caring people who serve in our educational system. While there is no doubt as to the incredible value of the effort provided by teachers, it must be remembered that without strong school boards to guide local education policies, teachers would have a far more difficult time achieving the goals that the public has set for them.

For the past thirty years, the Bay-Arenac Intermediate School District has been well served by Angela V. Fenton, a dedicated lady who had set her own clear goals when she started. She has served longer than any other board member, and has now retired, having successfully fulfilled each and every one of these goals. She is being honored on September 21 for her accomplishments and her lifetime of dedication.

Over the course of her tenure, Angela Fenton had three goals. She wanted to establish the Educational Center, which has been done with the praise of the community and to the great benefit of the many students who take advantage of it. She wanted to establish and manage the Vocational Center, and she has done exactly that, making what is known as the Career Center one of the best of its kind in Michigan. She also wanted to locate a permanent building to serve the needs of Special Education. This is in the process of being completed. Her vision, her efforts, and her devotion have left the Bay-Arenac Intermediate

School District a far better entity than she found.

Her service as Secretary of the Board for two years and as President for nine years is testimony to both her commitment and her leadership. It is truly fitting that she be honored before the regular Board meeting on September 21.

Mr. Speaker, when we express concern about our young people, or worry about the quality of public education, let us all be thankful that people like Angela Fenton undertake that important work with a visionary sense of the future, a hard core realism of the needs of today, and an appreciation for what has come before them. I urge you and all of our colleagues to join me in thanking Angela Fenton for her years of exemplary service, and in wishing her the very best for all of the challenges that life still has in store for her.

POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 1998

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remind my colleagues of the importance of National POW/MIA Recognition Day, which falls on September 18, 1998. I urge my colleagues to participate in recognizing America's heroes; those who are presumed missing in action.

Our Nation has fought six major conflicts in its history. In those wars, over 500,000 Americans have been taken prisoner-of-war. Those servicemen and women experienced numerous hardships and treatment which could often be described only as barbaric during the course of captivity. Those Americans imprisoned by the Japanese during World War II faced the worst possible conditions on captivity and were firsthand witnesses to the utter depravity of their fellow men.

I have been a strong advocate of an accounting of our POW/MIA's since I first came to the Congress in 1973. I proudly supported the creation of the Select Committee on Missing Persons in Southeast Asia, the National POW/MIA Recognition Days, and POW/MIA legislation because I believe the families of those who are missing in action deserve no less. Hopefully, 1998 will be the last year that such an occasion will be necessary. My hope is that by this time next year, our Government will have obtained a full accounting of those brave Americans whose fates, at this time, are still unknown.

Permit me to focus special recognition on those POW/MIA's from Korea and Vietnam. Despite the administration's best assurances to the contrary, many of us remain unconvinced that the governments of North Korea and Vietnam have been fully cooperating with the United States on this issue. Regrettably, by normalizing relations with Vietnam, I believe that we have withdrawn our leverage over the Vietnamese Government on this issue.

In recent years, we have learned from testimony presented to congressional committees that Soviet and Czech military doctors performed ghastly medical experiments on U.S. POW's in North Korea during the Korean war. These experiments were used to test the psychological endurance of American GI's, as

well as their resistance to chemical, biological, and radioactive agents. Moreover, Soviet and Czech intelligence agents helped organize shipments of POW's to the U.S.S.R. during the Vietnam war, and that, at least, 200 were sent between 1961 and 1968.

It is my hope that this information will lead to a further clarification regarding the safe return of any living POW's who may still be in captivity in Korea or elsewhere.

Americans should always remember the love of country that America's veterans have shown as well as their personal sacrifices, courage, convictions, and dedication to freedom that these individuals have exhibited.

Veterans Affairs Committee Chairman, the gentleman from Arizona, BOB STUMP quoted a portion of President Abraham Lincoln's letter to a mother who lost five sons on the battlefield:

I cannot refrain from tendering to you the thanks of the Republic they died to save. I pray that our Heavenly Father may assuage the anguish of your bereavement, and leave you only the cherished memory of the loved and lost, and the solemn pride that must be yours to have laid so costly a sacrifice upon the altar of freedom.

May it be of some solace to the families and loved ones of our missing and POW's that there are many of us in the Congress committed to a full and final accounting of our missing.

TRIBUTE TO WILFREDO GOMEZ

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 1998

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Wilfredo Gomez, an outstanding Puerto Rican athlete who has been a successful boxer. He was honored on Friday, September 11, at the "Centro Cultural Latino" in my Bronx congressional district.

Mr. Gomez was born on October 29, 1956 in Santurce, Puerto Rico. His record speaks volumes about his achievements: 42 wins, 3 losses, 1 draw, 40 knockouts. He is in the Boxing Hall of Fame in Canastota, New York.

On May 21, 1977, he defeated by knockout Dong Kyum Yum in the 12th round to conquer the World Boxing Council (WBC) Junior Featherweight title. He defended that title 17 times and won all the fights by knockout which set a world record.

On March 31, 1984, he defeated Juan Laporte for the World Boxing Council Featherweight title in 12 rounds and on May 19, 1995 defeated Rocky Lockridge for the World Boxing Association (WBA) Jr. Lightweight title.

Through his long dedication and success in boxing, Mr. Gomez has served as a role model for millions of youngsters in the United States and Puerto Rico who, like him, dream of succeeding in the world of sports.

Mr. Speaker I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Wilfredo Gomez for his contributions and dedication to boxing, as well as for serving as a role model for the youth of Puerto Rico and America.

GUNMEN IN EL SAUZAL, MEXICO

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 1998

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to inform the House that 19 men, women and children were brutally murdered early this morning in El Sauzal, Mexico. This small town, a suburb of Ensenada, is just an hour south of the Mexican border, and not far from my home district in Southern California.

According to news reports, some twenty people living in three neighborhood homes were jerked from their beds and lined up against a wall shortly after 4 a.m. this morning. They were then brutally gunned down execution style, murdered in cold blood.

Mr. Speaker, I hope the Mexican authorities find these killers and put an end to the violence which has plagued this region in years past. We cannot afford an increase in drug and gang-related violence along our southern border. I urge my fellow southern California colleagues to join me in urging that we continue to support our border patrol officers.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL D. CRAPO

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 1998

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. Speaker, I was not able to cast a series of votes on September 14, 1998. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner:

S. 2206, rollcall No. 426. I would have voted "aye".

H. Con. Res. 304, rollcall No. 427. I would have voted "aye".

H. Con. Res. 254, rollcall No. 428. I would have voted "aye".

H. Con. Res. 185, rollcall No. 429. I would have voted "aye".

HAPPY 130TH ANNIVERSARY ZION BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 1998

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, the strength and stability that people find within their church is a divine power. And nothing is stronger than the stability provided by longevity. On September 26, the Zion Baptist Church of Saginaw, Michigan, will celebrate its 130th anniversary in a fashion that is sure to inspire every one of its parishioners.

The members of today's church can look back fondly upon the church's history and learn great lessons from the church's history. While the church had a successful but non-eventful first 59 years, it has had a very active period since then. Reverend Reid became pastor in 1928. He committed the church to a \$10,000 expansion package, only to have the Great Depression place demands on the church that it would not place on itself. It fell to the next pastor, Reverend Arnold, to find

the funds necessary to pay off the debt. He succeeded.

Reverend Schatine then came, and wanted to help build a parsonage. The project once again proved to be overwhelming and satisfying at the same time, as Brother Hawkins exercised his leadership of the parish. Reverend Toomey completed this phase before Reverend Johnson came in 1942, who then oversaw a major expansion of the church. Reverend O.J. Steel organized the chorus and added a baptismal pool to the church.

In 1956, Reverend Roosevelt Austin became the Pastor, a post which he still holds today. His devotion and leadership have helped Zion Baptist Church grow, with a new edifice and an educational expansion. He has been a most positive force within the community, having been very active with the NAACP, OIC of Metropolitan Saginaw, Saginaw City Council, Second National Bank Board of Directors, President of the Wolverine State Congress of Christian Education, and many other civic and religious organizations.

Throughout this time, the people who have benefitted have been the thousands of parishioners who have found strength, guidance, and solace from Zion Baptist Church, its Pastors, and its congregation. This 130 year testimony of faith is something to be truly celebrated. Mr. Speaker, I urge you and all of our colleagues to join me in wishing Pastor Austin and the congregation of Zion Baptist Church a most joyous 130th anniversary, and many more to come.

TRIBUTE TO THOMPSON VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 1998

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to some of the fine young people at Thompson Valley High School. The varsity cheerleading squad was awarded the Colorado High School Activities Association's academic champions award for having the highest grade point average of any school their size. I commend these young ladies for their great academic achievement in addition to their hard work on the cheerleading squad. Their dedication and drive is sure to carry them to a bright and opportunistic future. I applaud Shari Robinson, their coach, for her leadership. Mr. Speaker, I have no doubt that these young ladies: Allison Anderson, Laressa Branson, Shannon Curtis, Christine Foote, Jenny Giansiracusa, Sara Griebbe, Sara Klaas, Elizabeth Leon, Kristen McTeer, Jodi Naylor, Hilary Pederson, Britni Rhodes, Kirsta Rinehart, Jeanell Santee, Dana Terry, Allysian Vissat, and Jamie Williams, will continue to excel in their academic and athletic endeavors. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

AN AMERICAN SUCCESS STORY

HON. PHILIP M. CRANE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 1998

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, one of the saddest chapters in America's history is that of